BY SPECIAL WIRE.

By Mrs. ALEXANDER.

[Copyright, 1897, by the Author,1 The sharp tingle of the telegraph bell warned the station master at Bracknell Park that the 6:30 train had left its last | into his with a smile as she spoke. halting place, and he hastened across the line, followed by his staff of two ily into his eyes, which dwelt upon her porters, to the arrival platform, which with a curious, hungry look, "what is Ruth: was opposite the little ivy grown sta-

Bracknell Park is one of those "residential" properties which have developed of late years in the neighborhood and moving restlessly to the fireplace. of London, where what was once a stately, well timbered domain, owned in its entirety by some merchant prince or well born squire, is now chopped up into plots, large and small, and strewn with mansions, villas and cottages, suited to various incomes. Bracknell is fa-vored both by the undulations of its well timbered ground and a station, all to itself, some 45 minutes from Waterloo. Adjoining it is a village of the same name, which, since the building of the aforesaid villas and mansions, has considerably enlarged its borders and increased its importance by the development of its trade and the establishment of a post and telegraph office.

A few minutes later and the train came in, with a scream from the whistle and a loud grinding of the brakes. Several passengers alighted, all men. probably city men, most of whom carried offerings for the domestic shrinei. e., the kitchen-small, flat baskets cunningly secured with a wooden skewer, and humpy brown paper bags, suggestive of the fishmonger and the fruiterer. Among them were two of a different stamp-one, tall, spare, soldierly looking man of perhaps 30 or more, either swarthy by nature or much sunburned, with nearly black bair and mustache. He had a distinguished air, but his face was plain, and at the moment he appeared far from attractive. It wore a harsh, fierce expression, while his large, dark eyes looked eager and strained

As he paused to let the train clear away he was joined by the other, a middle aged man who had alighted from a loosely built individual, who walked in get at your brother." a weak, shambling fashion.

His face was rugged and gaunt, lighted by a pair of dreamy eyes and surmounted by a shock of wildred hair. In spite of these peculiarities he looked eminently respectable. He touched his hat as he joined the gentleman first described and was greeted by a quick "Ha! How goes it, MacDougal?"

You've been a stranger in these parts

"Aye. I haven't been down for some time," returned Carew as they crossed to pace to and fro-"not to me, considto the other side, giving a brief good ering who pulls the wires. Yes, Ruth, morrow to the station master as they a mess about money some little time

ter, sir," began MacDougal as they rious events that you know nothing walked up the road which led through about and wanted desperately to turn

he was down here last spring."

turned Carew. "And how is it, Mac-Dougal, that you have rope enough to wander so far from the postoffice?"

"And your daughter? You have a daughter?'

replied MacDongal with solemnity. saving the general at Mooltaw in full." letter from Mr. Hastings that would "Glad to hear it," said Carew absent- settle the matter; but, by Jove, I canly. They walked on a few paces, and not find the letter anywhere! Must have

then MacDougal said: "I'll wish you torn it up! Then I went to Kensington good evening, Captain Carew. There's to James' lodgings. There the angelic a short cut to my place across the fields | nurse would not let me inside the doors. here.

Carew swung on at a sharp pace along

the road, which led up a gentle incline, between detached houses more or less ing trees, till he reached an open space to clear my character." at the top, where, facing a fine avenue of huge old elms, arching over like a chair at the end of this long speech and cathedral aisle, stood a pretty, old house, to which additions had been judiciously made. It was set in delightful capable of such a disgraceful act!" surroundings, velvetlike lawns, big for- cried Ruth. est trees, abundant evergreens and fragrant flower beds and looked out from good a record. I am considered reckless, wide stretch of wooded landscape, now and men are ready to believe anything she is on the watch." bathed in the rich light of a delicious September day. "Are the ladies at home?" asked Ca-

rew when the door was opened by a grave, gray haired man out of livery. "My lady has not come in yet, but Miss Hastings is at home, sir."

tered Carew as he followed the butler too friendly when I asked them for it. ing by Lady Hastings and her daughter, such a disgraceful act will be a black now," said Carew. a cool, shady apartment, with a bay mark against my name forever." window overlooking the garden and "Val, dear Val, you must not give comfortable nooks to read or think in, up," said Ruth, laying her hand with of a successful man in you." beautified with flowers and ferns and kindly familiarity on his shoulder. "My "Aye, Lady Hastings, if I is sweet with the perfume of the conserva- mother and I will testify to the affec-

tory, a door into which stood open. sound of a piano and a fresh, pleasant Carew took her hand and was covering voice singing "Robin Adair" indicated it with despairing kisses. that the daughter of the house was not

far off. the servant, and Carew was left to look hand gently away. about him, which he did with somber eyes—eyes that ached as they gazed at have been so weak as to betray myself. the books and writing materials and Do not be angry, Ruth." needlework scattered about and suggestive of quiet, well employed, happy drawing slowly away from him. lives-how different from his own

stormy, troubled existence! He walked to the window and stood there pulling his long mustache and keep back the words. Though I dare course he can be found. Nothing is hidgazing at the door into the conservatory, through which a tall young lady came swiftly to him, an exceedingly my heart are yours." fair girl, pale and delicate looking, with light bronze hair, but saved from have been so harsh and quarrelsome and "Khodja has been dismissed and sent solorlessness by very deep blue gray even unkind to me, Val?"

eyes and dark eyelashes and brows. There was a soft composure in her air and carriage that made itself felt at first sight, a quiet stateliness which gave importance to her slight, supple figure and simple costume of black and white muslin with a black sash, the slight

mourning still worn for her late father. "Why, Val! I thought you were never coming again." She put her hand

the matter? Something is wrong, very

"Wrong enough," returned Carew, with a quick sigh, letting her hand go



want her help sorely."

Carew threw himself into an easy chair and leaned his head on his hand by him!" with a desponding gesture.

third class carriage, an exceedingly tall, way out of it unless Lady Hastings can pected of having taken the checkbook

"But he must not see any one, not even my mother, and you know how much he likes her, though she is a stepmother. We went up to visit him last week, yet the nurse, Mrs. Somers, was "but I shall try to see him tomorrow. obliged to refuse us. His mind is much The nurse seems a superb woman. I do disturbed and he is ordered to the sea-

"He has gone there. At least he has "Well, I thank you, Captain Carew. | quitted his lodgings in Kensington and left no address."

"That seems very extraordinary." "Not to me," cried Val, starting up

over a new leaf, to exchange with "I'm afraid not. I hear he is in a bad | Clavering into the Seventeenth (the case might be complicated."

"Yes, I remember a good deal now," resumed Lady Hastings, slowly unfaswere a very young man, Val, then. You had not long joined the regiment,

ten with her, and it took all my time torial period both to mother and daugh and all my wits to choke him off. After ter. all, I don't think I should have saved had not packed him off home. I can tell you that woman very nearly bagged Lord Melford's only son and heir, and you know what a fortune he will have. Mrs. Revell hated me on that score, and some others into the bargain, and she is a woman who likes to pay her debts.

"You must exaggerate, Val." say so. Whatever happens, try to see

how angry he would be!" exclaimed ceived his father's second wife as kind-

"He has been a good friend to me, to the room generally used in the morn- The mere fact of being suspected of and but for him I should be nowhere ed into devoted affection toward his

with a profound sigh.

Val, till you can prove you are worthy of it. The only thing I can think of at his views were quaint and his exprespresent is to give you a letter of intro- sions original. "I will tell Miss Hastings, sir," said him with grave surprise, drawing her man. I will tell him I am convinced said kindly as he drew near. of your innocence, and you must tell your own story. '

table. Carew stood gazing disconsolate-

"How could I know it, when you of communicating with us."

"Is it possible you do not understand "Is it possible! I never thought why? Why must a drunkard take the James would part with him. Why, he pledge? Because he does not trust him- has been with him ever since my stepself even to sip the cup he longs to son was appointed commissioner at H-____

"Ah, it looks very bad!"

"Do not talk of such things now," she cried in some agitation. "We want "Pray impress upon Mr. Heartwell all our wits to help you out of this terrible strait. Oh, Val, I am so terribly sorry for you." With a quick sob she tings, rising and giving her note to Capressed her handkerchief to her eyes. | rew. As he put it in his pocket the din-Carew made a step nearer, when he ner bell rang, and at the same moment was arrested by an exclamation from the door was opened by Ruth.

"I have ordered the dogcart, mother." "Oh, mother, dear, I am so glad you she said. "Val must drive to Nutfield. There is no up train after 7:45 at our Turning, Carew saw a small, refined little station.

looking woman in widow's weeds just "A thousand thanks," cried Carew. "Come, then, you must want your dinner." And Lady Hastings took his Ruth ran to her, and, drawing her forward by both hands, continued: "Val is in such a frightful scrape! We arm. "Stop," she exclaimed, suddenly pausing before she reached the door.
"I have an idea. Suppose I go to the Oriental bank people and offer to guarmust help him through. I believe you "This is alarming! Tell me all about antee the amount of the check? I am it," said Lady Hastings, shaking hands good for £500."

"Oh, yes. Do, mother, dear," cried Ruth

"No, certainly not. I will accept nothing of the sort," returned Carew "Besides my decided objection firmly. to your risking the money, every one would see in your action proof of my villainy. My near relationship to James, my intimacy with the general and yourself are well known. You would be ly and DEATH Claims in credited with a sacrifice to save me. No, no, the matter must take its course. I have been rather a poltroon about it, ter Satisfactory Proof of the but your kindness has roused my drooping courage. I will use the time that is left me diligently. I don't think any steps will be taken for a few days." "Steps! Law proceedings!" exclaim ed Ruth.

"I see the force of what you say, said Lady Hastings, moving on to the dining room, "but remember I am not

afraid of trusting you with £500."

Dinner passed silently, though Lady Dinner passed silently, though Lady
Hastings was careful in her efforts to
make Carew eat. When it was over
Hastings was careful in her efforts to
Fleming Goodman. and the sound of wheels was heard as the dogcart came to the door, Carew rose and took leave of his kind hostess. "I can never thank you enough," he said in a low voice full of feeling.

"Do not thank me, Val. The memory of your help and devotion to my own Fish, Oysters & Produce "Do not thank me, Val. The memory poor boy when he was dying far away from us all is ever present with me. God bless you! Goodby." Ruth shook hands with him silently, and he hastily left the room, but the next moment he

called her and she followed.
"Oh, Ruth, I forgot to say I'll tele graph the moment I find any traces." 120 N. 17th St., Richmond, Va Then lowering his voice he whispered: Forgive me for disturbing you with the avowal that escaped me. I should have mastered myself, but the touch of your hand—do not trouble yourself LINCOLN BENEFICIAL INSURANCE about me, dear Ruth—goodby." And he COMPANY, Richmond, Va.

"What did Val want?" asked Lady Hastings, with a slight frown. "Oh, to say he would telegraph a soon as he found any trace of James!" half caste. Do you remember Revell of

"Yes, of course he will. Why, Ruth, J. A. Cooke, President; V. M. Gwath-ylove, are you so shaken?" For Ruth MRY, Vice-President; J. A. Jeter, Secretary and Manager. my love, are you so shaken?" For Ruth had thrown herself into a chair and burst into tears.

The next day and several more brought

Lady Hastings' solicitor wrote grave had quite lost sight of her till the other ly. The case, he said looked serious day, when I went to speak to James He had put detectives on the search, about this infernal business, and she but it was difficult to get a clew to the walked into the room. I then saw the missing invalid. Messrs. Lindley & Draper, Mr. Hastings' men of business, did not deny their knowledge of his

They seemed quite convinced of Capwhen I have discussed matters with suffering relative. Meantime Carew wrote seldom, and Lady Hastings became quite alarmed by the altered looks. The profound depression of her daughtening her cloak. "She is still hand- ter Ruth's extreme anxiety betokened a some. She was, I believe, lovely. You degree of interest in the unlucky Val that woke Lady Hastings' doubts and fears. Carew had been so much with Ruth when she was a mere schoolgirl ment to him beyond a friendly sisterly "A good deal more than I liked," re- feeling never occurred to her mother, plied Carew frankly and stoutly. "I al- and, although she had always liked her ways thought her a she devil and as stepson's kinsman, Lady Hastings by plausible as Beelzebub. But now that no means wished to have him for a sonthe old times are coming back to your in-law. Her common sense suggested mind I dare say you will remember lit- the wisdom of not seeming to observe tle Aigy Melford of the -th lancers? too much. Nevertheless the week fol-My great chum. He was awfully smit- lowing Carew's visit was a most purga

The Sunday after Ruth had wandered him if he had not been prostrated by a out into the strip of pleasure ground sharp attack of fever and the doctors which intervened between the house and the open fields on the west. Here a seat under a fine old oak commanded a wide view over the rich landscape, and Ruth, too preoccupied by her own painful thoughts to heed the beauties of air or earth or sunlight, sat down to brood over her fears.

From this reverie the sound of ap-"If you knew all I do, you would not looking up she saw MacDougal approaching by a path that led from the front entrance.

MacDougal was a humble friend, and Ruth had always been accustomed to see and talk with him. He was a curinumerous dislikes and a few strong likings. His gratitude to his late patron, Sir Edward Hastings, had been deepenwidow and daughter by their great You have been rather a bad boy, kindness toward his only girl, whom Val, but I believe there's the making they had taken with them to the Riviera during the previous winter and so "Aye, Lady Hastings, if I had a good checked the beginning of the fell diswoman to care about me?" said Carew, ease which threatened to fasten upon

> Ruth was pleased to see him ay proach. She liked to talk with him, for

"Good morning, MacDongal," she

"I've made so bold, Miss Ruth, as to come round here, for I saw you sitting She rose and went over to the writing by yourself as I came across the fields.' "I'm glad to see you. Sit down. You have something to tell me?"

"Yes, I have, mem," taking a rustic stool and seating himself at a distance, with the instinctive respectful good "I was away to London yesterday. I

have to go now and again to look after that all the passion and tenderness of mense importance. I wonder Khodja, a bit of money I have put away for my heart are yours."

We carry a fine line of girlie. I was coming down the Strand, INVITATIONS FOR going back to Waterloo station, when tions, also wedding stock.

(Continued on 7th page.)

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ness Manager, 552 Brook Ave.

N&W Norfolk Western Schedule in Effect

JUNE 12, 1898.

LEAVE RICHMOND, BYED STREET STATION.

9:00 A. M., Daily—Richmond and Norfolk Vestibule limited. Stop ony at Petersburg, Waverly and Suffolk Second class inckets not accepted for pasiage on this train.

9:06 A. M., Daily, "The Chicago Express" for Lynchburg, Roanoke, Columbus, and Chicago, Pullman Sleeper Roan oke to Columbus; also for Radford, Bristol, Knoxville. Chattanoga and intermediate points.

7:80 F. M. Daily for Norfolk, Suffolk and intermediate stations.

11:40 P. M., Daily, for Lynchfourg and Roanoke. Connects at Roanoke with Washington and Chattanooga Limited. Sleepers Roanoke 10 Memphis and New Orleans. Fullman Sleeper between Richmond ond and Lynchburg, and beaths ready for occuupancy at 9:00 F. M. Also Pullman Sleeper Fetersburg to Roanake.

Train arrive at Richmond from Lynchburg and the West daily, 8:16 a. m., at dai 8:66 p m from Norfolk und the East II:45 a m and Vestibuled Limited 6:55 pm Office: 88 Mein St. R. W COURTNEY, Dist Passenger Agant, R. W BEVILL., General Passenger Agant, General Offices: Roanake, Va.

INVITATIONS FOR CLUBS Societies, and other organizaA TLANTIC COAST LINE

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE SUNDAY TRAIN LEAVE SICHMOND-UNION DEADT 9,35 A. M., Sunday Accommodation arrives letersburg 8.2, mkaes all stors Richmond and Petkrsburg rail-

Richmonu and Petkrsburg railroad.

9:00 A. M., Dally Arrives Petersburg. 9:31 A.
M., Norfolk 11:25 A. M. Stops only
at Pet ersburg, Waverly and Suf
folk. Va.

9:05 A. M., Dally Arrives Petersburg 9:50 A.
M., Weldon 11:45 A. M., Fayetteville
6:15 P. M., Charleston 10:20 Savannah 12:50 A. M., Jacksonville 7:30
A. M. Port Tampa 6:20 P. M., Conseets at Wison with No. 47, Arriving at Goldsboro 3:10 P. M.,
Wilnington 5:45 P. M. Pullman
Sleever New York to Jacksonville.
2:05 P. M., Daily, Local. Arriges Petersburg at Goldsboro 8:10 P. M.,
Wilnington 5:45 P. M. Pullman
Sleever New York to Jacksonville.
2:05 P. M., Daily, Local. Arriges Petersburg at B. M. Makes all stops.
4:40 P. M., Senday Accommodation. Arrives Petersburg: 28 p. m. Makes
all lobus stops Richmond and Petersburg railroad.
5:30 P. M., Daily, Arrives Petersburg 6:20 P.
M., Makes local stops R. & P.
railroad.
7:30 P. M., Daily, Arrives Petersburg 8:04 P.
M., connects with Norfolk and
Western for Norfolk and immediate points. Emporia 9:10 (con
nects with A. and D. for stations
between Emporia and Lawrence,
ville), Weldon 9:42 p. m Sayettesville 1:07 a. m., Charleston 602 a.
m., Savannah 8:46 a. m., Jacksonville 1:00 p. m., Port Tampa 9:45 p.
m.
NEW LINE TO MIDDLE GEORGIA

NEW LINE TO MIDDLE GEORGIA

NEW LINE TO MIDDLE GEORGIA
POINTS.—Arriving Alken 7:28 A.
M., Augusta 8:10 A. M., Macon II
a. m., Atlanta 12:15 P. M. Pullman
Sieepers New York to Wilmington
Jacksonville. Post Tampa. Aiken,
Augusta and Macon.
L. Daily, arrives Petersburg 9:31
P. M., Weldon II:20, P. M. Makes
local stors between Petersburg
and Weldon.
A. M. Lynchburg 5:16 A. M., Roanoke 7:15 Bristoi 2:56 P. M. Pullman Sieeper Richmond to Lynchburg.
Trains Arrive Richmond

Trains Arrive Richmond

Trains Arrive Richmond
4;00 A. M., Daily, from Jacksonville, Savannah, Charlesten, Atlanta, Meconaugusta and all points Scuth.
8:15 A. M., Daily except sunday Atlanta, Athens, and Kaleigh, Henderson, Lynchburg and the West.
8:27 A. M., Daily Petersburg Loval.
8:00 A. M., Sunday only. From Atlanta, Athens, and Raleigh, and Henderson, Lynchburg, and the West.
11:05 A. M., Daily, Nor.olk, Suffolk and Petersburg.

11:05 A. M., Daily, Nor.olk, Sulloik and retersburg.
6:40 P. M., Daily, Jacksonville, Savannau,
Charleston, Wilmington, Goldsboro
and all points South.
6:55 P. M., Daily, Norfolk, Sulfolk, Waverly
and Petersburg.
8:56 P. M., Daily, Petersburg, Lynchburg and
the West.
10:25 A. M., Sunday Accommodation.
7:20 P. M., Sunday Accommodation.
J. R. KENLEY, Traffic Manager
General Manager.

RICHMOND FREDERICKSBURG & POTOMAC RAIL-ROAD. SCHEDULE IN EFFECT May. 15, 1898.

LEAVE BYRD-STREET STATION.

7;12 p. m., baily for Washington and points
North. Stops at Elba, Ashland,
Doswell, Milford, Fredericksburg, Brooke, and Widewater,
and other stations Sundays,
Sleeper, Richmond to New York

ARRIVE BYRD-STREET STATION.

8;40 A. M., Daily. Stops at Widewater, Brooke, Fredericksburg; Milford. Doswell Ashland Elba and other stations Sundays. Sleeper, New York to Richmond.

2:45 P. M., Paily, except Sunday. Stops at Widewater, Brooke, Fredericksburg, Summit Guinea. Woodslane, Milford, Penoia. Ruther-Glen, Doswell, Taylorsville, ashland, Glen Allen and Elba. ParlorCar from Washington.

7:10 P. M., Daily. Stops only at Fredericksburg, Sunday. Stops at Widewater, Brooke, Fred

FREDERICKSBURG ACCOMMODATION.

(Daily, except Sunday.) 4:00 P. M., Leaves Byrd-Street Station. 8:80 A. M., Arrives Byrd-Street Station

G. & O. Chesa peake and Ohio Railway. ROUTE.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 26, 1898. BROAD-STREET STATION

8:36 A. M., Daily from Cincinnati. 30:18 a. M., Daily from Norfolk and Old Point. 8:30 7. M., Daily, from Cincinnati and Louis-6:56 P. M., Daily, from Norfolk, and Old

Southern Railway

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 1, 1898. Train Leaves Richmond, Va.

12.10 A M.NO 11 NOUTHERNEXPRES daily for Atlanta. Augusta and points South. Sleeper Richmond, to Danville Greens-boro. Salisbury. Charlotta. Columbia and Augusta. Sleeper open 9:30 v. m. Slops at all Stations between Rich-mond and Danville to eake on and let off passengers.

and Augusta. Sleeper open 9:30 0. m.
Stops at all stations between Rickmond and Danville to eake on and let
off passengers.

Connects at Danville, Salisbury and
Charlotte with the Washington
Southwestern Limited (No 87) carrying sleepers New York to Ashville,
Hot Springs. Chattanooga and Namiville; New York to Memphis, New York
to New Orleans, New York to Tampaand first-class day coach between Wash
ington and memphis. Connections are
made for all points in Texas and California. Sleeper open for occupancy at
9:30 p. M.

12:01 p # No. 7, solid train daily for Charlotte, N. C. Connects at Moseley with
Farmville and Powhatan railread at
Keyswille for Clarksville. Oxford, Namderson and Durham and at Greensbase
for Durham, Raieigh, and WinstenSalem; at Danville with No. 35 United
States Fast Wall, solid train, daily for
New Orleans and points South, which
carries sleepers New York to New Orleans and New York to Jacksonville
Through sleeper Salisbury, to Chatt
nooga also. Pullman Tourist Siecpe
every Wednesday Washington to San
Francisco without change.

6:00 p. M., No 17, Local, daily except Sunday
for Keysville and Intermediate points
TRAINS ARRIVE AT RICHMOND.

TRAINS ARRIVE AT RICHMOND. 6:40 a. M.
6:25 P. M., from Atlanta augusta, Asheville
8:40 P. M., from Keysville.

Nos, 61 and 62, between Manchester and me

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Train No. 16,4:30 P M. BALTIMORE LISTED, Daily, xcept Sunday, for West Point, there making close connections Monlays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with steamer for Baltimore, also with stage at Lester anor for Walkerton and Taypahannock on Tuesday, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Train No. 10, 2:30 F. M.

LOCAL EXPRESS, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for West oint and inte mediate sta-tions, connects with stage at Lester manor for Walkerton; also at Tappalaunock with steam-ers for Baltimore. Stops at all stations.

Train No. 46, 5:00 A. M. Local MIXED, leaves daily, except Sunday from Virginia street Station for West Folat and intermediate stations, connecting with stage at Lestor manor for Walkerton and Tappahannook.

TRAINS ARRIVE AT RICHMOND.

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10 12 M.
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Traffic Mahager.
GANNON. FRANK S. GANNON. hird Vice-President and General Manager

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No. 41.—"The S. A. L. Express" leaves Rickmond, daily, at 9.05 a. M., for Henderson, (Darham, daily, except Sunday) Raleigh, Sanford, Southern Fines, Wilmington, Wadesboro, Memphis, Hontgomery, New Orleans, Texas Mexico, and the Southwest (via New Orleans) Solid Train, with pullman sleepers and coaches; and Sleeper Hamlet to Wilmirgton.
Arrive Richmond, 6;30 a. M., 6;40 F. M., daily, For tickets, baggage checks, sleeping on Plesservations, etc., apply to

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Western ratiroad or Chesapeake and Omeraliway.

Direct steamers (via James-River route) leave every SATURDAY (Passenger and freight and 2 P M Steamer via Norfolk every Monday and Wednesday at 8 P M Sallinga from company's pier. No. 26, North River foot of Beach Street. Freight received and forwarded daily except Sunday.

For further information apply to

"Val," she repeated, looking stead-

"You might trust me, too, Val." "But I must not bore you about my ill luck. When will your mother be in? I tion, Val," she said at length, "though

her at 6. "

'You might trust me, too, Val," said Ruth, still standing beside him sure not to be locked up. You know "I might not be of much use, but it how careless he is, but, though she would be a relief to talk of your trou- most readily promised to make a thor-

"I hope Mr. Hastings is getting bet- ago. I had lost heavily on-oh, on va-

regiment is going to India next month), So I believe, sir. Her ladyship went to live on my pay and try to work up to see him one day last week, but she wasn't let to have speech of him, and he seemed so bright and well when he was down here last spring."

Tound, so I put my pride in my pocket, as I had nothing else to put there, and wrote to James flastings. He was always more like a brother than a cousin "Well, he is deuced queer now," re- to me. He has lots of money, too, and no one to think of but himself. I asked him for £500 and permission to pay it back by installments. He soon replied, Then turning to her daughter Ruth she whereabouts, but would not reveal it. "Oh, I had business with the post | inclosing his check for the amount I said: "Go tell cook to let us have dinmaster at Nutfield. He is over me, you asked in a letter—a lecture, in fact, but ner as soon as possible. Some food and tain Carew's guilt and the extreme imknow. My son is quite able to work the a kind one. I felt sure I had come to wine will do Val good. I will call you portance of keeping him away from his telegraph now when I am away. I am | the end of my troubles, and even ventraining him, you see. It's the best tured to dream-no matter what! Of him." Ruth at once obeyed. thing I can do for my poor, motherless course I lost no time in getting the cash and disbursing it. Some days after I was asked to call at the bank where I had lodged the check, and the manager "Ah, thanks to Lady Hastings and informed me that the Oriental, where Miss Ruth, I still have a daughter," James banks, had returned it, the sigeplied MacDougal with solemnity. nature being doubtful. It was awfully and they used to say you spent more Ruth when she was a mere schoolgirl Their care and kindness kept her in shaky. I certainly had a shock; still I time than was prudent in the society of that the idea of her forming any attachlife. Lady Hastings has paid the debt was not greatly disturbed. I told the she thinks was due to my father for fellow it was all right; that I had a

"Ah, good day to you!" returned of representing the matter to her pa Carew, with a friendly nod, and they tient and would write to me. So she did -to say that Mr. Hastings was not clear on that or any other subject. If James cannot or will not remember the transaction, I shall be accused of forornamental with gardens and spread- gery, and I have not a tittle of evidence

She said she would take an opportunity

"Surely no one would believe you "Don't be too sure. I have not too the eminence on which it stood over a extravagant, quarrelsome, a gambler, James alone, which will not be easy if

Carew again threw himself into a

It's the most devilish tendency that ever dragged a man down." "My mother and I will go to James and insist" - began Ruth eagerly. "Aye, but where will you find him?" interrupted Carew. "Even his lawyers "Awfully unlucky in one way!" mut- will not give his address and didn't look ly as he did."

of a gambler. Nor are they far wrong.

The room was untenanted, but the my brother." She stopped abruptly, for

"Why, Val, your troubles must have "I fancy they have, or I should not

"You must know how it is with difficulties," said Lady Hastings, lookme," cried Carew, starting up and fac-ing up from her writing, "this disap-ing her. "Right or wrong, I cannot pearance of James and his nurse. Of breeding of a highlander. not ask or seek your love, you know den long nowadays, but time is of im-

"I see you are in a very difficult posiit seems absurd that you should be ac-"She must be here soon. I expected cused of so base an act. Surely the counterfoil in James' checkbook would prove the check was really sent to you

you know.'

drain to the last drop."

crossing the threshold.

"It is too bad to trouble you with

my troubles, but I think you can and

I am sure you will help me!" he ex-

"Yes, if I can," she replied, growing very grave as she looked from him to

the sofa and signed to Carew to sit be-

side her. Lady Hastings was still a

pretty woman, with white hair and dark eyes. Though small and fragile

looking, she had an air of delicate de-

termination and a decided though clear,

low toned voice. She listened with pro-

found attention to Carew's recapitula-

tion of his story, and when he paused

she was silent for a moment, as if re-

"Tell me all." She sat down on

with Val

claimed.

"No doubt it would, and I begged the amiable nurse to look for it. It's sure not to be locked up. You know ough search for it, she cannot find s "I am in a hole, an awful hole, trace of it, or says she can't, so if the Ruth," he returned. "I don't see my thing is not cleared up I shall be sustrace of it, or says she can't, so if the as well as having forged the check. I was often in and out of Hastings' rooms,

"James as evidently in a curious

mental condition," said Lady Hastings,

not think you are just to her. She was most reluctant to refuse me admittance to her patient when I explained to "Do you know who she is?" interrupted Carew, with a bitter smile.

quite like an English woman."

'No, not at all. She does not look

"I should think not. She is really s

the uncovenanted service who shot him-

self when we were at Agra?" "Yes, quite distinctly." "This woman is his widow. You perhaps don't know she was the daughter of an English sergeant of artillery and a native woman. After Revell's death Somers of the commissariat married her. He died of drink, and she left India. I

poor Mr. Revell's widow."

It would be nuts to her to ruin me."

"If James were in his right mind, Ruth had always been accustomed to Lady Hastings. "He has always been ous, thoughtful man, fond of what he such a good fellow in spite of his eccencalled "improving himself" by study tricities. Few men of 30, which was his age when I married would have and gifted with an imagination decidhis age when I married, would have re- edly Celtic in its coloring, a man of

"No use in thinking of such a prize,

"I am not angry," she said, sadly ly through the window. "It is a dreadful aggravation of our

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